

New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements
Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1919.

Outlook and position of the New York Tribune
and New York Corporation Office, New York,
New York. Report of Vice-President, James
Rosen, and Secretary, F. A. Ladd, Treasurer
and General Manager, The Associated Press
and Tribune Company, New York, New York.

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The American press is now pledged to the
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of being persecuted if all other
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The Air Crisis

Shall the future aerial freight and passenger services of this continent be conducted by European fusiliers? That is the question which now faces the country. The action of the House committee in refusing the \$15,000,000 emergency appropriation for the Army Air Service has gone a long way toward removing from United States control and ownership in the future air-carrying trade in America.

A large British concern is already incorporated under the laws of this state. It is this Massachusett's concern the stake of the Boston police force? Are the people of that state ready to accept the theory that governmental servants may combine for their own ends to defeat the purposes of government?

Governor Coolidge denies the right of policemen to desert their posts and leave the cities and towns they are supposed to guard to the forces of disorder and anarchy. He has refused to reinstate the striking policemen or to promise to reinstate them in the future. His opponent, Mr. Long, favors taking them back after the election. All the extreme radicals, the propagandists of socialism and the advocates of direct action on the part of organized minorities have come to the support of Mr. Long. They realize that his success would greatly weaken the power of the state government and encourage revolutionary elements to attack the prevailing system of law and order.

Mr. Long asks for election on a frankly un-American platform. Governor Coolidge has shown that he means to fight un-Americanism. This is an issue which overshadows all ordinary party disputes. It goes down to the fundamentals of our political life. For if imperialist and the government which they set up have no rights which self-seeking minorities are bound to respect the whole American structure falls to pieces.

As the campaign in Massachusetts is closing the soft coal miners' unions have gone on a strike in defiance of federal law and of a contract with the operators and the national government which is still binding. Other labor unions threaten to go to the assistance of the miners. Union labor leaders have thrown off the mask and are ready to act on their now confident belief that they can force the government to accept their dictation.

The government has accepted this challenge. It is fighting for its own authority—its own existence. But it cannot fight successfully unless the public, which these organized and grasping minorities intend to exploit, comes to its assistance. The ballot is its best weapon.

This is what the politicians call an "old year" in politics. But in Massachusetts, at least, the question submitted at the polls surprises in importance any which the present generation of voters in that state has ever dealt with.

What verdict will they give tomorrow?

The Bill for Scapa Flow

The Supreme Court of the peace conference has decided to make Germany pay for the warships sunk at Scapa Flow. Thus, the peace of iniquity staged by the German rear admiral in charge of these vessels—approved afterward by his chief, von Scherff, as a splendid exhibition of loyalty to the German naval traditions—will merely increase the waste of Europe and overseas. Here is the German program as outlined by Professor Days.

The destruction of the ships was a characteristic act of bad faith. The German commander assumed that the treaty of peace would be signed at a certain hour. He was secretly instructed from Berlin that the moment the armistice terms lapsed the ships would again become German property and might be sunk if they had not been actually taken over by the Allied naval authorities. But the signing of the treaty was delayed for two days and the settling occurred while the terms of the armistice were still in force. The Allies, therefore, have an indisputable claim for compensation.

What the Germans never could understand during the war was that they were simply laying up penalties for themselves by pursuing a policy of wanton destruction. They rejoiced at the bombardment of the

Church Cathedral. They applauded the military devastation of Northern France, the wrecking of farms, villages and factories and the flooding of coal mines. They never realized that they were destroying property which they would have to restore in case they were beaten.

It was the same thing at Scapa Flow. Germany had spent billions of marks on the fleet interned in Scottish waters. A fantastic and inopportune interpretation of the code of German military honor sent most of its units to the bottom. Now German labor must create other billions to make good the sum thus childishly squandered.

German naval policy was never understandable. Its confusions ruined the empire. It can truly be said to the end, when at Scapa Flow it satisfied a malicious impulse with the sole result of swelling the already enormous total of the German war indemnity.

And what is to be the ultimate purpose of the combination? To master Asia.

It is not for love of Russia that Germany ought to seize the route across Asia, but for the purpose of realizing the great visions of her Continental policy. For the first time in history the naval policy of England, who, in the course of centuries, has acquired the mastery of the world by the concentration of forces converging toward one end, will be opposed by an equally vast and powerful, a unit of Continental policy."

Germany Getting Ready

Perhaps the most disconcerting report that has issued from Germany lately is a dispatch from the *Manchester Guardian's* Berlin correspondent, describing the steady strip of the militarist clique on a half-hearted government and a susceptible population.

The account carries all the greater weight as nobody can accuse the great English liberal daily of alarmist tendencies. Referring to the closing of the East Prussian frontier toward Lithuania, ordered in pursuit of the Allied demands regarding the Baltic, the correspondent doubts if the measure will be actually carried out, and continues:

"It is to be feared that all the considerable forces strong along Germany's eastern frontiers are now committed with much the same energy as the Iron Division, mentioned above, for the expenditure of the emergency appropriation.

There is no question about the attitude of the House of Representatives. The majority of its members are opposed to granting any appropriation to the Army Air Service for two reasons:

First—they believe the war appropriations of this section of the War Department were spent recklessly and without substantial result.

Second—they claim that the Army Air Service has no concrete plan for the expenditure of the emergency appropriation.

This attitude may or may not justify a refusal to recommend the appropriation on the face of the army's record.

Resentment of past follies and errors, however, will, if persisted in, prove the death blow to American aeronautics, irrespective of the Army Air Service. Taking advantage of the situation that exists, this machine is being utilized in a program of education and propaganda that will be extremely useful to this concern.

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